

1: Anonymous U-4 (no date)1938 RB1 Baltic States^{Estonia} RB1

of its sessions', to a Committee of Elders and to the Administration. ^{Latvia} 648
The Baltic Barons, on the other hand, declared themselves the sole 196
authorized representatives of the people, proclaimed the definite 642
separation of Estonia from Russia, and appealed to Germany for
military aid against the Bolsheviks.

The immediate consequence of the Proclamation of November 28 [669]
was the temporary arrest of M. Paets and the dispersal of the
National Council by the Bolsheviks, who, however, allowed the
elections to the Constituent Assembly to take place during January
1918, in the hope of getting a majority of votes for their own candi-
dates. When it became clear that they would not do so, a civil war
broke out which was only ended by the arrival of the German armies
in February. On February 24, the single day left to them between
the flight of the Bolsheviks and the coming of the Germans, the
Committee of Elders seized the opportunity to promulgate a mani-
festo reaffirming Estonia's independence as a Republican State,
defining her frontiers, and instituting a Provisional Government
under M. Paets. The German occupation during the following
months postponed all further constitutional development until after
the Armistice of November 11, 1918.

Latvia. The history of the Lettish nationalist movement up to the 648
signature of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918 ran a some- 186
what similar course, and thereafter suffered a similar temporary 668
eclipse until the Armistice was signed; for, although the southern
half of what is now Latvia, with the exception of Latgale, was from
the summer of 1915 onwards under German occupation, Lettish
nationalists in the northern half and in Petrograd were able to con-
duct negotiations with the Imperial and Provisional Governments in
Russia, and later to defy the Bolshevik authorities in much the same
way as did the Estonian leaders, though with rather less success.

Towards the end of the Imperialist régime, when half the inhabi- [575] ●
tants of Courland were refugees in Russia, the Lettish deputies of
the Duma, together with representatives of the exiled Letts, among
them J. Čakste and Z. A. Meierovics, formed a Latvian Refugees'
Committee in Petrograd, which tried to obtain promises of autonomy
and reform from the Government. When the Provisional Govern-
ment assumed authority in the spring of 1917, they were urged
to establish an autonomous administrative district consisting of
southern Livonia, Courland, and parts of Vitebsk; less amenable to
Lettish than to Estonian entreaties, they did, however, issue decrees
appointing new and more democratic-minded governors and per-
mitting elections to local government bodies in the unoccupied
districts.

In Latvia, as in Estonia, the Bolshevik Revolution precipitated